

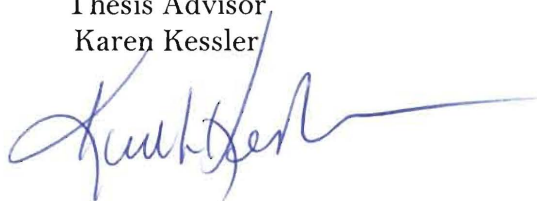
BEFORE IT GETS INSPIRING...

An Honors Thesis (HONRS 499)

by

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Karen Kessler', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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Abstract

Theatre is the miraculous act of placing real life on stage and giving people a chance to examine it from a new perspective. A theatrical experience has the potential to inform people's minds, touch people's hearts, and bring people together. Even when the subject matter is something as common as the four-year college experience, theatre allows unique voices to be heard in an intimate setting that few other medias can rival. Using songs from varying musicals and interviews from graduating Bachelor of Fine Arts students, I have created a one-act musical examining the four-year college experience that is so common and yet so unique to each of us. This musical presents a common journey we all undergo and yet is littered with personal anecdotes, laughs, and heartbreaks that will challenge and expand our conception of the college journey as only theatre has the power to do.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Jen Blackmer and Karen Kessler for advising me through this project. Their professional and artistic expertise provided the guidance and structure to this entire product.

I would like to thank Kara, all the seniors who participated in the interviews and freely gave up their opinions, and my performers who dedicated the final weeks of their senior year to making my thesis become a realized production.

Author's Statement

These past four years of my life have been a raging rollercoaster that has never once stopped. During the ride I have slowly inched to the highest heights and I have blindly sped down to the lowest lows. I have gone through the loops, corkscrews, and vertical drops that are inherent in college and becoming an adult. Every student experiences their own coaster with their own peaks and dips. I firmly believe these four years irrevocably change a person. The path from 18-year old high schooler to 21-year old graduate contains laughter, pain, wonderment, and disillusionment. It is a story I feel needs to be examined intimately and I would like to focus on my microcosm at Ball State University.

During my junior year, I became aware of how intimate and monumental college is for me. And I was constantly wondering if anyone else was going through the same experience. How much of this journey is universal? And how much of it is unique? These questions gave me the inspiration to create a theatrical piece. My professors have taught me to appreciate every aspect of theatre. The Bachelor of Fine Arts program has introduced me to writing, directing, light and sound design, scenic and costume design, etc. Though my emphasis is on performance, exploring all these trades is imperative to making me well rounded, empathetic, and a better artist. I chose to challenge myself as an artist by attempting to write and direct a show centered on a subject I was passionate and curious about.

However, my experience in playwriting is extremely limited. To begin the process of writing a show, I chose to interview my fellow seniors about their own college experiences. My plan was to use their discussions as inspiration for a story I would write myself. I interviewed 15 BFA students (Bachelor of Fine Arts; my own area of study) and wound up with over seven hours of material. The topics we covered in these interviews were expansive and I was quite overwhelmed. Then my advisor Jen Blackmer introduced me to the playwright Anna Deavere Smith, who creates one-woman shows out of interviews she has with people throughout the country. I watched a TED Talk featuring her and I was instantly inspired by her method. Instead of writing my own play, I would use the words spoken directly by my peers to tell a story. First, this made my work easier. Second, this guaranteed the language would be natural and contemporary. Third, it gave the story a more personal meaning to my cast and myself.

I had always known I wanted this to be a musical. I am a musical theatre student after all. I had a selection of songs I was interested in featuring but in each of the interviews I had asked my peers to name songs they connect to. If they were the ones who would have to perform it, I thought they should be able to connect to the material as well. From the 20 odd-something songs I had collected, I chose 10 to be featured in my show and ordered them in such a way to thematically show a progression. I then inserted excerpts from the interviews that matched this thematic growth.

This specific journey is very much based on my personal growth through college: You enter bright-eyed and bushy-tailed. You run into minor conflicts and surpass each of them. However, your worldview is changing. You are disillusioned and see sides of the world you did not know existed. You also see sides of humanity and

yourself you would rather ignore. You change. And oftentimes it hurts. Deeply. But in the end you look back and realize you are better for it. And you are ready to take on the next step. I think everyone goes through this one way or another in college. I believe it is incredibly personal and yet very universal. And that is why it was relatively easy to take 15 different people's points of view and still show this one journey.

I had an intense editing process. Numerous cuts and additions were made. I have attached my very first draft and my final version so that you may see the changes. There were a total of eight drafts. You will see that 3 of the 10 songs did not make it. I found that some songs got in the way of the thematic journey or else were repetitious and so they had to go. I was actually still making minor changes to the script the day of the performance. This project taught me the importance of every single word in a script. And how easy it is to agonize over every choice. From the beginning I had decided to take word-for-word from the interviews. This meant all the dialogue was written in people's actual speech patterns and it made all the words true to life. However, I still needed to edit for clarity and progression.

The most challenging part of the process was dividing all the dialogue up amongst actors. I had assembled a cast of seven performers. My initial plan was for every piece of dialogue to be a stand-alone monologue independent of what else was being said. The speeches connected thematically and not through characters. But this would have made it monotonous and choppy. My advisors assisted me in developing the idea of characters created out of the dialogue. This would add intention to each line and create individual journeys throughout. In dividing up the script, I attempted to create seven unique characters. Some were successful. Others were not. The script does not have enough material to make seven separate storylines. It would have been more effective for a cast of five. However, I am happy with how it turned out. It created a hybrid effect between abstract monologues and character driven dialogue that kept the audience interested. It was a happy accident.

While writing was challenging, the rehearsal process was the most stressful part of this thesis. I had to organize nine people's schedules in such a way that rehearsal could be productive and efficient. Not to mention, my cast was made up of all seniors and it was the last two weeks of the school year. Needless to say, their attention wasn't always well placed.

My key focus in the rehearsal process was to keep the actors performing positively. My advisor Karen Kessler and I discussed the main pitfall of the script being that it can easily sound like a pity party. That is not the intention. The point is that these characters rise up stronger after their different trials. And so in rehearsals I would discuss the intention and delivery behind each line that would keep the actors from sounding whiny or overly depressed. This process has given me a newfound respect for the preparation and wisdom required of directors. A director must go into rehearsal knowing exactly what she hopes to accomplish and how she will accomplish it efficiently. She must also be able to answer any and all questions asked by her cast and crew. She is the ultimate decision maker. I was often caught off guard by questions I had not considered. But each day I also improved my decisiveness and preparation.

The final days leading up to the performance were extremely stressful. For almost any production there is a very large production team that shares the work. For my thesis, it was all me. This was a choice. And while I was successful, I would never do it again. There is a large checklist when it comes to performing a musical: accompanist, rehearsal accompanist, performance space, rehearsal space, props, lights, costumes, etc. One person in charge of them all is a nightmare. My cast was extremely helpful, but I believe my own sanity would have been much more stable if I had a production team with me. Once again, I have a newfound appreciation for production teams and their work.

It all paid off in the end. The performance was a success. Around 35 people attended the show, including the Assistant Dean of the Department of Theatre and Dance Dr. O'Hara, the head of the department Bill Jenkins, and adjunct faculty member and Tony-award winning actress Sutton Foster. After the show I was approached with compliments on the honesty of the piece, its effective pacing, and its heart. One underclassman said, "That was just what I needed to hear." In the midst of making this script a real performance, I had forgotten about the story I had wanted to convey. The compliments surprised me and reminded me of the power of theatre. I was extremely proud, knowing that my peers had received the feeling of pride and drive that I had attempted to put in the show.

FIRST DRAFT

THE LETTER

ALL: Dear NAME,

I am pleased to inform you that the Theatre faculty has recommended you for admittance into the BFA Acting/Musical Theatre Option. We believe you have the

potential to develop into a fine actor, singer, and dancer, capable of pursuing a career in musical theatre.

~~The BFA Acting/Musical Theatre Option is exciting and competitive. Our objective is to help you acquire the skills needed for a successful career in (musical) theatre.~~

Again, I extend my congratulations on your acceptance into the BFA Acting/Musical Theatre Option. We look forward to your being a member of the Department of Theatre and Dance.

UNCHARTED

NO WORDS, MY TEARS WON'T MAKE ANY ROOM FOR MORE,
AND IT DON'T HURT LIKE ANYTHING I'VE EVER FELT BEFORE,
THIS IS NO BROKEN HEART, NO FAMILIAR SCARS,
THIS TERRITORY GOES UNCHARTED...

JUST ME, IN A ROOM SUNK DOWN IN A HOUSE IN A TOWN, AND I
DON'T BREATHE, NO I NEVER MEANT TO LET IT GET AWAY FROM ME
NOW, I'VE TOO MUCH TO HOLD,
EVERYBODY HAS TO GET THEIR HANDS ON GOLD,
AND I WANT UNCHARTED.

STUCK UNDER THE CEILING I MADE, I CAN'T HELP BUT FEELING...

I'M GOING DOWN,
FOLLOW IF YOU WANT, I WON'T JUST HANG AROUND,
LIKE YOU'LL SHOW ME WHERE TO GO,
I'M ALREADY OUT OF FOOLPROOF IDEAS, SO DON'T ASK ME HOW
TO GET STARTED, IT'S ALL UNCHARTED...

LA LA LA-A-A-A.
OH-H-H.

EACH DAY, COUNTIN' UP THE MINUTES, TILL I GET ALONE,
'CAUSE I CAN'T STAY
IN THE MIDDLE OF IT ALL, IT'S NOBODY'S FAULT, BUT I'M
SO LOW, NEVER KNEW HOW MUCH I DIDN'T KNOW,
OH, EVERYTHING IS UNCHARTED.

I KNOW I'M GETTING NOWHERE, WHEN I ONLY SIT AND STARE LIKE...

I'M GOING DOWN,
FOLLOW IF YOU WANT, I WON'T JUST HANG AROUND,
LIKE YOU'LL SHOW ME WHERE TO GO,
I'M ALREADY OUT OF FOOLPROOF IDEAS, SO DON'T ASK ME HOW
TO GET STARTED, IT'S ALL UNCHARTED.

JUMP START MY KALEIDOSCOPE HEART,
LOVE TO WATCH THE COLORS FADE,
THEY MAY NOT MAKE SENSE,
BUT THEY SURE AS HELL MADE ME.

I WON'T GO AS A PASSENGER, NO
WAITING FOR THE ROAD TO BE LAID
THOUGH I MAY BE GOING DOWN,
I'M TAKING FLAME OVER BURNING OUT

COMPARE WHERE YOU ARE TO WHERE YOU WANT TO BE, AND YOU'LL
GET NOWHERE

I'M GOING DOWN,
FOLLOW IF YOU WANT, I WON'T JUST HANG AROUND,
LIKE YOU'LL SHOW ME WHERE TO GO,
I'M ALREADY OUT OF FOOLPROOF IDEAS, SO DON'T ASK ME HOW
TO GET STARTED.

OH-H

I'M GOING DOWN,
FOLLOW IF YOU WANT, I WON'T JUST HANG AROUND,
LIKE YOU'LL SHOW ME WHERE TO GO,
I'M ALREADY OUT, FOOLPROOF IDEA, SO DON'T ASK ME HOW
TO GET STARTED, IT'S ALL UNCHARTED...

A: I remember having a photo sent to my mom because she always had a picture of me on the first day of school. And then that never happened again. That was the last first day of school photo.

B: I don't know cuz its funny cuz you always think it's gonna be a good experience like my first roommate was a girl I went to high school with and knew since I moved to Indiana so that was like 1999 but um and we were really excited about it but then I knew there was going to be issues the moment we bought the futon which was before

we even moved in. So when we bought the futon we were like ok so whose paying for this and that wasn't established. So it was like that first awkward moment when— like whose paying for the futon and it was like goddammit what did I get myself into. So we split it which down the line is not a good idea cuz then you're like ok whose taking it and then I ended up buying the rest of it from her at the end. It wasn't completely a bad experience. But it wasn't exactly a good experience because it's two women living in a tight space so there are bound to be problems so I was the clean one, she was the messy one and she wasn't just messy as in stuff everywhere, clothes on the floor from just deciding what outfit she was going to wear that day. It was just gross in the fact that there was a pizza box that had been sitting under her bed for two months and there was mold growing under her bed and even mold sometimes on her clothes that wouldn't be washed for months. It was a problem. And its those horror stories that you hear before but never think will happen to you but it happened to me. I am that person. I am that horror-story and there's even the awkward moments of being sexiled from your room. Which you don't really think will happen to you and you try to work out before hand and like hey let me know if you're ever going to do the jiggy because I just want to know so its not awkward. So I remember she had a boyfriend and then I thought ok I feel like this is going to happen to me sometime soon. I just didn't know when. And it happened like two days later where I came home and her boyfriend and her were there and I could tell I was not welcome and I was like all right I got it. I am gonna go for a few hours, I'm gonna come back at six o'clock so just keep that in mind cuz I gotta do homework and they're like ok cool. So I'm like I think I'm being that good roommate I'm like I'm gonna give you guys your time even though our room is not a private lovers getaway but whatever. So then I came back at like six o'clock and there were

clothes literally laid out on the floor in the way that you would picture people having sex. And it was just disturbing. And I remembered I only had one rule where it was like don't have sex on the futon. They totally did it on the futon. And I don't know how you can tell maybe by the way the suede in the futon was patterned cuz you could just tell but you could just – it was that and the smell and the clothes and – just the atmosphere in the room – its almost like the air in the room tells you and you don't even know and I don't have a problem with people having sex. I just have a problem with people not doing anything to cover it up. So that and on top of that thinking oh well I know why you didn't have sex on your bed and on the futon because you have mold growing everywhere. Which sounds exaggerated but it's really not. There was mold in places you knew there could be mold and there was mold in places I didn't know there could be mold. Luckily I was by the window where there was some nights I would stick my head out to breath.

C: Uh well. I love that people – when I came here people told me it was a great place and it works you hard. But I think that some people forget that, you know this business, the theatre business takes a little toll on you and it sorta steals a piece of your soul. And I think that I used to think of the world a lot differently. I think I used to—and I still try to do that—I think I thought the world as a nicer place. Um a lot nicer. And then I came here and I was like no people aren't so nice all of the time. And I didn't understand that cuz I grew up and you're supp- you know treat people with kindness and respect. And of course not everyone is like that but also like from like the cornfield I grew up in that's how everybody treated each other. And so coming here was a lot different. You know it's super competitive. At my school we were competitive but we were happy for each other. And we were proud of our work and here not all of the time are people proud or

happy for you. Um cuz it's just that kinda way. Also you're just busy and you get tired and you get grouchy and conform to the society that is this department and you um change very quickly. I think I changed to how I am more now in literally just a month. That's all it took. I mean of course you develop and you change overall but the main ideas and the set in and like how it works. A month. And you just click into it. You have to or you won't make it.

D: I don't know it was really scary. First semester I was a hot mess. We were all a hot mess. It was uh— You don't really know what you're doing and you think you're good and you're like why do they like this person and not this? You're trying to like know what you're doing but you can't know what you're doing. Drew's class I had to put a blanket on a table on the first day of acting and he gave me the word betrayal and I said that's not an emotion that's an action like that's not an emotion and he said betrayal's an emotion and I said no feeling betrayed is an emotion betrayal is actually like a verb and he said stop thinking and then gave me happiness instead and I was like shit. Stop thinking. Ok. I was a hot mess.

WOE IS ME

LOGAINNE (SPOKEN)
~~I'D JUST LIKE TO TAKE ONE~~
~~MOMENT TO THANK MY TWO FATHERS,~~
~~WHO HAVE BEEN SO SUPPORTIVE OF ME IN ALL OF MY ENDEAVORS.~~
~~THANK YOU DADS!~~

CARL
WE HATE LOSERS

DAN (SPOKEN)
NO ONE LIKES A LOSER!

CARL
WHICH IS WHY
(SPOKEN) WE DISCIPLINE.
GOD HATES LOSERS!

DAN (SPOKEN)
BUT HE LOVES YOU!

CARL
BECAUSE LOSERS DO NOT KNOW HOW TO WIN

DAN (SPOKEN)
AND WE HAVE FAITH IN YOU.

CARL (SPOKEN)
YES WE DO!

DAN (SPOKEN)
YES WE DO!

CARL (SPOKEN)
GO GET 'EM!

LOGAINNE
I HOPE YOU CAN LOVE ME, AMERICA
I'M GUNNING FOR FIRST PRIZE!
HERE'S WHY YOU SHOULD LOVE ME, AMERICA
MY NEEDS I CANNOT OVEREMPHASIZE
I MAKE MYSELF CRAZY
BEING WHAT MY DADS HOPE I'LL BE
BUT WHAT ABOUT ME DADS?
WHAT ABOUT ME?
(SPOKEN) JESUS CHRIST!
(SUNG) WHAT ABOUT ME?

CARL
PRACTICE YOUR BREATHING, LOGAINNE.

LOGAINNE
THOUGH I PRACTICE YOGA
I DON'T BREATHE
I TRY NOT TO DISAPPOINT
BUT STILL I
DISAPPOINT THE DADS
WHO MY FRIENDS MOCK
KIDS ARE MEAN
KIDS'LL TALK
ALL MY SO-CALLED FRIENDS ROLL THEIR EYES

THEY'RE INCREDIBLY PETTY
BECAUSE MY DADS ARE MY DADS
AND ALRIGHT ENOUGH ALREADY

ALL
WOE IS ME
WOE IS ME

LOGAINNE
WHICH IS WHY I GOTTA WIN
THIS SPELLING BEE

~~CARL (SPOKEN)~~
~~TAKE A PICTURE FOR HER BM.~~

~~LOGAINNE (SPOKEN)~~
~~DAD!~~

~~DAN (SPOKEN)~~
~~DON'T CALL HER BM, CARL.~~

~~CARL (SPOKEN)~~
~~SORRY, HER BIRTH MOTHER~~

~~LOGAINNE (SPOKEN)~~
~~PEGGY JENKINS!~~

~~DAN (SPOKEN)~~
~~SHE'D BE VERY PROUD IF SHE COULD SEE YOU SPELL!~~

(OVER MUSIC)

E: I remember rehearsing the scene just a little bit. We would go into class and throw away everything we rehearsed and just sit there and say the lines and then Ms.

Dwandra would be like this is brilliant! You guys must have worked so long on this and we're like... totally.

LOGAINNE
MY BIRTH MOTHER LIVES IN KANSAS, MO
IN A TRAILER
IN A PARK

ALL

TORNADOS

LOGAINNE
EVERY NOW AND THEN
SHE SENDS A CARD
LIFE AND MEN, SHE WRITES
ARE HARD
SHE WOULD LIKE TO MEET ME
WHEN I'VE GROWN AND I'VE BURST LIKE A COMET
BUT I'M SO STRESSED
BY MY STRESS
I JUST WANNA UP AND VOMIT

ALL
WOE IS ME
WOE IS ME

LOGAINNE
WHICH IS WHY I GOTTA WIN
THIS SPELLING

ALL
BE SMART
BE COOL
BE AN ADULT
BE REMARKABLY ADROIT IN SOCIAL SITUATIONS

LOGAINNE
WOE IS ME
WOE IS ME

ALL (OVERLAPPING LOGAINNE)
BE SMART, BE COOL
BE SMART, BE COOL
BE SMART, BE COOL
BE SMART, BE

LOGAINNE, DADS
WHICH IS WHY I GOTTA WIN
THIS SPELLING BEE

ALL (OVERLAPPING LOGAINNE)
WHICH IS WHY SHE'S GOTTA WIN
THIS SPELLING BEE

F: I remember even when I first auditioned here one of the notes I got for my monologue was to become more simple and I thought about that for a second before I started the monologue and I thought what does that mean? What?

G: Uh this is silly but we were doing leaps across the floor in that jazz class with Christie and I got used as an example. And it was just like a proud moment like I got to leap by myself and Christie was like see how her legs – she just goes up and I was like oh I didn't even know! Like that's silly but that was a fun moment. That was a good moment.

H: Trying to not fail rather than do something productive. Being like super super busy most of the time I wasn't trying to create like this fantastic piece of art. I was literally trying to – get by. Trying to learn and like – do what I think is right banking on the fact that the teachers are going to tell me what was good and what was bad.

I: My first class ever was Acting 1 with Drew. And it was in that first class I decided I'm glad that I came here. My very first class. It's just some- it's just Drew.

J: So you go in to talk to her not just about that problem but like other—not just issues but things that you're just experiencing and it's good, bad, up, down, in the middle, or extreme or not. And then over the years you just keep talking. And then you're talking about acting class. And acting class somehow relates to something you're going through. Just stuff and then she's just always been there in the rough times. But she's always there in the good ones too and that's, I don't know, it gets you through the shitty parts of college. But it's not even just the shitty parts of college. It's getting you through growing up.

I BELIEVE IN YOU

NOW THERE YOU ARE;
YES, THERE'S THAT FACE,
THAT FACE THAT SOMEHOW I TRUST.
IT MAY EMBARRASS YOU TO HEAR ME SAY IT,
BUT SAY IT I MUST, SAY IT I MUST:

YOU HAVE THE COOL, CLEAR
EYES OF A SEEKER OF WISDOM AND TRUTH;

K: I feel like there are some people you meet in your life who know you better than you
know yourself.

YET THERE'S THAT UPTURNED CHIN
AND THAT GRIN OF IMPETUOUS YOUTH.

K: Beth just knows me even when I'm putting on a face.

OH, I BELIEVE IN YOU.
I BELIEVE IN YOU.

I HEAR THE SOUND OF GOOD, SOLID JUDGMENT
WHENEVER YOU TALK;

L: Jen's just had my back since the beginning.

YET THERE'S THE BOLD, BRAVE SPRING OF THE TIGER
THAT QUICKENS YOUR WALK.

M: Just like every time I have a problem he's like – she knows exactly what to say to
me.

OH, I BELIEVE IN YOU.
I BELIEVE IN YOU.

AND WHEN MY FAITH IN MY FELLOW MAN
ALL BUT FALLS APART,
I'VE BUT TO FEEL YOUR HAND GRASPING MINE

AND I TAKE HEART; I TAKE HEART

TO SEE THE COOL, CLEAR
EYES OF A SEEKER OF WISDOM AND TRUTH;

N: Because she gets people. She doesn't judge...

YET, WITH THE SLAM-BANG TANG
REMINISCENT OF GIN AND VERMOUTH.

N: Well she judges people. But not in a detrimental way.

OH I BELIEVE IN YOU!
I BELIEVE IN YOU.

(OVER MUSIC)

O: Because it's not that I've put her on a pedestal and I'm looking up to her and I want to be like that. But it's like you're saying I want to know myself like she knows herself as a person and strive towards being that grounded and being that self-aware and being that happy and um and if it's not being that happy—cuz you know obviously the going gets tough sometimes—but it's knowing how to problem solve when the issues come. I want to be like that.

OH, I BELIEVE IN YOU.

~~EXECUTIVES: DON'T LET HIM BE SUCH A HERO!~~

FINCH: I BELIEVE IN YOU.

YOU! YOU!

P: You realize oh this is where I belonged my whole life ok I'm on the right path and then you're really really really happy and excited and you're drinking a lot and you're making a lot of stupid choices with several different people.

Q: They decided to take everything away from us only to give it back. Like to literally take our souls straight up like ok well now that you made it through Aesthetics 2 here's what you're actually going to learn and they beat everything out of us habits ideas everything. It's kinda the scare tactic thing. Like if you think you're actually gonna do it or not.

R: The thing is coming into school ballet was my favorite thing. And he totally ruined it. And I know he's coming from a really good point where he's like I want you to be better because I know you can be better but it was like, last semester especially he would just harp on me and it would like- it got to the point where I was like yes I really want to do better but I'm not going to do better at this very moment. I need to let that sink in. I know it's because they like see that I can do better and that they want me to be better and that's why they're doing it. So it's like flattering but I still want to like rip my face off.

S: There were a couple classes like that. They were encouraging me to stop more than they were encouraging me to keep going. Which is really sad.

T: I think we were supposed to grow. Artists, people, etcetera. I think well I personally feel like I did grow a lot. I think there was still—I don't know if I was satisfied in my growth.

U: We learned so much but we couldn't actually do it. Looking back on that, we grew like I can't even explain. Everyone I think. But in the actual class we really didn't get better. At the end she was like well you guys still suck. But then going into junior year we all could take it and do it finally. But I'm still inconsistent I think. But we knew what we were working towards finally junior year. We knew what we were supposed to be

doing even if we couldn't do it all the time, we could like-we knew what the goal was as opposed to like just winging it all the time. You don't know what you don't know until you know it.

V: I think it's a flaw in the humans. Um I mean everyone in this business from my standpoint if they want to succeed in it they are willing to work until they are incredibly tired. Because theatre is just so damn important to everyone in it. And if it isn't that important why are you here you know? And because it's also such a big community um I think because we're all in it together it's work that we're willing to go to our breaking point for it. I think sometimes we are willing too much so we break down but.

W: The idea that no matter what setback comes in your life if you just keep walking forward you're not alone. Beyond the theatrical realm I think it's all in all a good philosophy to have. No matter what stake comes in life you still have to wake up the next morning.

TOMORROW

THE SUN'LL COME OUT TOMORROW
BET YOUR BOTTOM DOLLAR THAT TOMORROW THERE'LL BE SUN
JUST THINKIN' ABOUT TOMORROW
CLEARS AWAY THE COBWEBS AND THE SORROW TILL THERE'S NONE

WHEN I'M STUCK WITH A DAY THAT'S GRAY AND LONELY
I JUST STICK OUT MY CHIN AND GRIN AND SAY

THE SUN'LL COME OUT TOMORROW
SO YOU GOT TO HANG ON TILL TOMORROW, CAME WHAT MAY!
TOMORROW, TOMORROW, I LOVE YOU, TOMORROW
YOU'RE ALWAYS A DAY AWAY

I JUST STICK OUT MY CHIN AND GRIN AND SAY

THE SUN'LL COME OUT TOMORROW
SO YOU GOT TO HANG ON TILL TOMORROW, CAME WHAT MAY!
TOMORROW, TOMORROW, I LOVE YOU, TOMORROW

YOU'RE ALWAYS A DAY AWAY

TOMORROW, TOMORROW, I LOVE YOU TOMORROW
YOU'RE ALWAYS A DAY AWAY

X: It's like a day in the life of a woman on her period. You have to go through all these specific mood swings before you get to tears.

Y: Movement. I just felt terrible. I felt like I was accomplishing nothing. No matter how aware I was, I was receiving nothing back from the world and when I was more aware, I was more aware of other people doing stupid shit.

Z: It's kinda funny because I feel like I had a better grasp of what I was doing freshmen year and then they just tore me apart and were like nope you are an idiot and you suck and so then I was like very lost. I can remember my general auditions and just being like I don't even know what I'm doing. I don't feel prepared and I've worked on what I'm doing for the whole semester.

a: Before it gets inspiring it needs to get shitty. And it's shitty while you're figuring it out because you're also figuring out your friends. So after that happens you start to follow the things that have started to inspire you and so then you have to start by sucking at the things that inspire you. And so you start to feel like you're not going to go anywhere. Nothing's going to happen in your life. You can't actually go into this. And you have your certain group of friends by then. So you're able to talk to them all about how you're going to suck and no one is going to like you in your career.

b: I think there are lots of different kinds of self-doubt. There is personal self-doubt which is like when people would tell me I'm crazy. Cuz I already knew I was crazy and I

already know I'm on medication and I have issues and then they tell you you're crazy.
You're like well ok can you just let me be crazy please? And then you have your
teachers telling you you're not talented enough when you already know you're not
talented enough because you're not on the cast list, they don't say anything in class.

EVERYBODY SAYS DON'T

EVERYBODY SAYS DON'T,
EVERYBODY SAYS DON'T,
EVERYBODY SAYS DON'T-
IT ISN'T RIGHT, DON'T-IT ISN'T NICE!

EVERYBODY SAYS DON'T,
EVERYBODY SAYS DON'T,
EVERYBODY SAYS DON'T WALK ON THE GRASS,
DON'T DISTURB THE PEACE,
DON'T SKATE ON THE ICE.
WELL, I SAY DO,
I SAY, WALK ON THE GRASS, IT WAS MEANT TO FEEL!
I SAY SAIL!
TILT AT THE WINDMILL,
AND IF YOU FAIL, YOU FAIL.

EVERYBODY SAYS DON'T,
EVERYBODY SAYS DON'T,
EVERYBODY SAYS DON'T GET OUT OF LINE.
WHEN THEY SAY THAT, THEN
LADY THAT'S A SIGN:
NINE TIMES OUT OF TEN,
LADY, YOU ARE DOING JUST FINE!

MAKE JUST A RIPPLE.
COME ON BE BRAVE.
THIS TIME A RIPPLE,
NEXT TIME A WAVE
SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO START SMALL,
CLIMBING THE TINIEST WALL,
MAYBE YOU'RE GOING TO FALL-
BUT IT IS BETTER THAN NOT STARTING AT ALL!

EVERYBODY SAYS NO,

EVERYBODY SAYS STOP.
EVERYBODY SAYS MUSTN'T ROCK THE BOAT,
MUSTN'T TOUCH A THING!

EVERYBODY SAYS DON'T,
EVERYBODY SAYS WAIT,
EVERYBODY SAYS CAN'T FIGHT CITY HALL,
CAN'T UPSET THE CART,
CAN'T LAUGH AT THE KING!

WELL, I SAY TRY!
I SAY LAUGH AT THE KINGS OR THEY'LL MAKE YOU CRY.
LOSE YOUR POISE!
FALL IF YOU HAVE TO,
BUT LADY, MAKE A NOISE!
EVERYBODY SAYS DON'T,
EVERYBODY SAYS CAN'T,
EVERYBODY SAYS WAIT AROUND FOR MIRACLES,
THAT'S THE WAY THE WORLD IS MADE!
I INSIST ON
MIRACLES, IF YOU DO THEM,
MIRACLES - NOTHING TO THEM!
I SAY DON'T,
DON'T BE AFRAID!

c: I think our classes kinda build your spirit a bit. I mean they crush it too but they fill it out a little but where as other classes they just really kill your spirit and chip away at it. They may build your mind sure but our classes are all about making you a fuller person, personality I don't know. Just cuz its about human interaction. Instead of toning down human interaction so that you can get more knowledge from lecture. Honors classes I think are different there's more discussion in them but imagine if you're not an honors student going to all these classes all the time that encourage you to sit and listen and don't talk.

d: It applies to a lot of people that – because we have so much acting classes where we have to talk about personal things and like throw it all out there that we're so in touch

with who we are and gauging other people that when we meet a normal person we're like you literally have no idea who you are.

c: Sometimes I'm like are you a little bit retarded?

d: I think you're a little emotionally stunted.

c: Well then I remember it's just because they're not us.

d: yea

c: In classes we're encouraged to like share opinions even if they're controversial. Like Beth's classes. Especially. Tell your deepest darkest secrets about yourself. And I don't know when anywhere other people get to do that. Or like feel like its ok to do that. Even with their friends I imagine they sit and talk about only socially acceptable things.

d: Football.

c: And we're encouraged to do crazy things that make us look stupid on the daily. River game. We look like idiots.

d: Yea I mean. Throw a stick at a normal person they're gonna fall over.

e: Well the self-doubt started happening for me in sophomore year I remember. And then I remember one of the teachers, I won't name names, but they called me fat and that was just like... just after class they pulled me aside and they were like you know you're really chunky and I was like ok thanks. And they're like you need to go to the gym. And that has always been something with me because... I'm the ugly one in my house. So when I heard that... Cuz there are days where if I am not wearing makeup or if I don't have my hair a certain way I am just—I don't want to step outside. I think that I

just look hideous in all these different ways. I grew up in a society where you have to wear makeup. Like I got makeup in 5th grade and so when I got that comment I was already doubting my acting ability and everything so when I got the comment that I was chubby it was like I already get that enough when I'm at home and having to hear that – really?

f: There was one night when there was a huge blizzard. And I asked people to stay – I just didn't want to be by myself that night—that was when I was living by myself—I'm never living by myself again that's a decision—but there was a blizzard and I was all by myself and the heat went out in my apartment and I was just like here I am. No heat. There's so much snow out I can't go anywhere so I was just praying that something didn't happen to me and luckily an hour and a half later the heat came back on but I was just like I'm in my apartment all alone. I feel like I'm gonna die. That was one moment in my life that I felt so on my own.

NOBODY'S SIDE

WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND ME
IS BARELY MAKING SENSE
I NEED SOME EXPLANATIONS FAST
I SEE MY PRESENT PARTNER
IN THE IMPERFECT TENSE
AND I DON'T SEE HOW WE CAN LAST
I FEEL I NEED A CHANGE OF CAST
MAYBE I'M ON NOBODY'S SIDE.

AND WHEN HE GIVES ME REASONS
TO JUSTIFY EACH MOVE
THEY'RE GETTING HARDER TO BELIEVE
I KNOW THIS CAN'T CONTINUE
I'VE STILL A LOT TO PROVE
THERE MUST BE MORE I COULD ACHIEVE
BUT I DON'T HAVE THE NERVE TO LEAVE.

EVERYBODY'S PLAYING THE GAME
BUT NOBODY'S RULES ARE THE SAME

NOBODY'S ON NOBODY'S SIDE
BETTER LEARN TO GO IT ALONE
RECOGNIZE YOU'RE OUT ON YOUR OWN
NOBODY'S ON NOBODY'S SIDE.

THE ONE I SHOULD NOT THINK OF
KEEPS ROLLING THROUGH MY MIND
AND I DON'T WANT TO LET THAT GO
NO LOVERS EVER FAITHFUL
NO CONTRACT TRULY SIGNED
THERE'S NOTHING CERTAIN LEFT TO KNOW
AND HOW THE CRACKS BEGIN TO SHOW!

NEVER MAKE A PROMISE OR PLAN
TAKE A LITTLE LOVE WHERE YOU CAN
NOBODY'S ON NOBODY'S SIDE
NEVER STAY TOO LONG IN YOUR BED
NEVER LOSE YOUR HEART, USE YOUR HEAD
NOBODY'S ON NOBODY'S SIDE.

NEVER TAKE A STRANGER'S ADVICE
NEVER LET A FRIEND FOOL YOU TWICE
NOBODY'S ON NOBODY'S SIDE
NEVER BE THE FIRST TO BELIEVE
NEVER BE THE LAST TO DECEIVE
NOBODY'S ON NOBODY'S SIDE
AND NEVER LEAVE A MOMENT TOO SOON
NEVER WASTE A HOT AFTERNOON
NOBODY'S ON NOBODY'S SIDE
NEVER STAY A MINUTE TOO LONG
DON'T FORGET THE BEST WILL GO WRONG
NOBODY'S ON NOBODY'S SIDE.

BETTER LEARN TO GO IT ALONE
RECOGNIZE YOU'RE OUT ON YOUR OWN
NOBODY'S ON NOBODY'S SIDE.

g: I realized how I can deal with – with bad things happening. And like how—and how I can't. Like what needs to happen if things fall apart. How I keep it together or not. And how do I deal with confrontation and how do I deal with talking to people about how I feel about things. That was my big lesson. I like to pretend my life's a perfect little bubble even though I know it's not. But I like to keep it as perfect as possible because

when things fall apart I don't know what to do. I just doubt myself all the time. Which – and I know that's dumb – I know it's really dumb. But that's what this years been about is like self doubt and comparing myself to other people and what – what am I doing, why am I doing this, what am I doing wrong, why am I not getting called back, ya know. I'm like I'm so done crying but I don't know how to stop because I feel so lost. I don't- what- ah and its so -ya know it's still kinda there. More put together obviously because I can patch it all up and it's fine but still there are moments of self-doubt which there will always be but I just always hope that my beacon of light will come back eventually.

h: She told me I was terrible in my show and then the other– none of them who at the time told me that was my best work blah blah I was so great didn't back me up and they all started like slowly like, yea agreeing with her and they all became one voice instead of the multiple I had heard throughout – you know what I mean, and so I was just really confused and felt – not like betrayed by them but I just felt like wait a second do I need to take everything you tell me with a grain of salt now? Because I thought one of you felt this one way and now you're telling me something completely contradicting to that and so that was really upsetting and so I had a meltdown. I didn't know who else to turn to and they told me all this stuff and I just don't know what to believe and I don't know who to listen to and I'm just so confused.

LEGALLY BLONDE

ELLE

**TAKE BACK THE BOOKS AND PACK UP THE CLOTHES
CLEAR OUT THE ROOM AND DROP OFF THE KEY
LEAVE WITH WHAT'S LEFT OF MY DIGNITY
GET IN THE CAR AND JUST GO**

CHALK IT ALL UP TO EXPERIENCE
THEY SAID I'D FAIL BUT I DISAGREED
WHO COULD SAY THEN WHERE MY PATH WOULD LEAD?
WELL, NOW I KNOW

BACK TO THE SUN
BACK TO THE SHORE
BACK TO WHAT I WAS BEFORE

BACK WHERE I'M KNOWN
BACK IN MY OWN
VERY SMALL POND

LAUGH WITH MY FRIENDS
WHEN I ARRIVE
WE'LL DROP THE TOP AND JUST DRIVE
THAT'S FINE WITH ME
JUST LET ME BE
LEGALLY BLONDE

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP AND FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE
THANK YOU FOR TREATING ME DECENTLY

~~EMMETT~~
~~(SPOKEN) WHAT'S WRONG?~~

ELLE
MAYBE SOMEDAY YOU CAN VISIT ME
GIVE ME A CALL, SAY HELLO

~~EMMETT~~
~~WAIT, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?~~

ELLE
SORRY I'M LETTING DOWN EVERYONE

~~EMMETT~~
~~WHAT BROUGHT ON THIS?~~

ELLE
YOU DID YOUR BEST WITH A HOPELESS CASE

~~EMMETT~~
~~THAT'S LUDICROUS~~

BOTH
YOU ARE THE BEST THING ABOUT THIS PLACE

EMMETT
~~ELLE, YOU SHOULD KNOW...~~

ELLE
~~(SPOKEN) CALLAHAN HIT ON ME.~~

EMMETT
~~(SPOKEN) HE WHAT?~~

ELLE
~~HE KISSED ME. HE FIRED ME. THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO STAY.~~

EMMETT
~~WHAT ABOUT LOVE?
I NEVER MENTIONED LOVE
THE TIMING'S BAD, I KNOW
BUT PERHAPS IF I MADE IT MORE CLEAR
THAT YOU BELONG RIGHT HERE
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO GO
CAUSE YOU KNOW THAT I'M SO MUCH IN LOVE...~~

i: When you get shot down you just get completely shot down. Everything's ruined.

Like your life what's your life anymore? You don't know because why am I even here.

Why do people care.

ELLE
BACK TO THE SUN
BACK TO THE SHORE
BACK TO WHAT I WAS BEFORE

EMMETT
~~PLEASE WILL YOU OPEN THE DOOR~~

ELLE
LIE ON THE BEACH
DREAM WITHIN REACH
DON'T STRAY BEYOND

EMMETT
~~WE BOTH KNOW YOU'RE WORTH SO MUCH MORE~~

ELLE
SOME GIRLS FIGHT HARD
SOME FACE THE TRIAL
SOME GIRLS WERE JUST MEANT TO SMILE

EMMETT
~~IF YOU CAN HEAR, CAN I JUST SAY~~
~~HOW MUCH I WANT YOU TO STAY~~

ELLE
IT'S NOT UP TO ME
JUST LET ME BE
LEGALLY BLONDE

EMMETT
~~I NEED YOU TO STAY...~~

ELLE
IT'S NOT UP TO ME
JUST LET ME BE
LEGALLY BLONDE

j: I think sometimes that gives you where you want to go in life cuz nearly failing at something always makes you look at it in a different way. You nearly fail and you're like whoa I thought I can do this maybe I can't. And it forces you to take a step back and look at your life and look at your choices. It's like a slap in the face. Like do you really want to do this or are you just saying you want to do this because this is what you've always done. Nearly failing always give you that (snap) extra oomph like no I'm gonna pass it.

k: I was angry cuz of course I didn't pass and ya know I wanted to improve myself and so I worked on but also I remember talking to Wendy and saying ya know like door closes open a window, when life gives you lemons don't make lemonade but make orange juice. Like there's an experience in everything and it's what you make of it. I'm a big believer in that. I'm the biggest believer of the experience is what you make it. So I rarely have any pity for people who are upset with their production or are upset with something that they don't like about a show and if they complain about it. I say then fix it or work on something else. Because you are—it's a learning process. You are at school

to learn. You're not here to be in a show and be the star. You are here to learn that part for that – and I know they purposefully put us in our parts and how the politics fall like we don't all like it. But I'm a big person about what you get out of something.

I: It's like when a kid is really angry and they get sent to time out for ten minutes to think through, cry at the wall, punch it if they need to, and then emerge enlightened. That's what college is. College is time out. You get out all the shitty, you get out all your anger, all your cry, everything that people have scolded you for in high school. They said you couldn't be a slut and then you're like well you know what, I'm gonna go do that. That's not what I meant. I meant things that you're told in high school and then you get mad at them for saying that and then you go try it all out and then you're like ok they were right when they said it and now I'm right for thinking that they were right. So the time out thing, They tell you not to do it. You sit there and you're like I was right when I did it. Maybe I wasn't right. But now I'm right for thinking that they were right for saying that but I've been through what I needed to go through and I'm done fighting now. And sometimes they put a cone on your head to embarrass you on top of that. You have to go through the embarrassment as well.

m: It was only one night. That scene – I just couldn't get it I couldn't get it and I felt blamed for it but it was a partnership like neither of us were good at the scene and that's fine. But that one night. We knew we had them we knew we had the audience we were in it ourselves and at least that's how I was feeling. I was like we rocked (snap) that scene and after I left I walked out the door and I just stood there and I was like ahh. And I went downstairs to the green room and he just walked in and he went YES and I was like (gasp-clap) yay so we both knew and we shared that moment of it being on. I'm

like that was such a beautiful moment of partnership. I think that– we didn't– he didn't– he never looks at me in the whole scene except at the very end and we– but we knew that we were on– we knew that we were on and then I don't know I've never had that experience before and have – and to do it so separately and not even talk to each other and at the end you just know it was right– you just don't get that all the time.

HOLD ON

WHAT YOU'VE GOT TO DO IS
FINISH WHAT YOU HAVE BEGUN,
I DON'T KNOW JUST HOW,
BUT IT'S NOT OVER 'TIL YOU'VE WON!

WHEN YOU SEE THE STORM IS COMING,
SEE THE LIGHTNING PART THE SKIES,
IT'S TOO LATE TO RUN-
THERE'S TERROR IN YOUR EYES!
WHAT YOU DO THEN IS REMEMBER
THIS OLD THING YOU HEARD ME SAY:
"IT'S THE STORM, NOT YOU,
THAT'S BOUND TO BLOW AWAY."

HOLD ON,
HOLD ON TO SOMEONE STANDING BY.
HOLD ON.
DON'T EVEN ASK HOW LONG OR WHY!
CHILD, HOLD ON TO WHAT YOU KNOW IS TRUE,
HOLD ON 'TIL YOU GET THROUGH.
CHILD, OH CHILD!
HOLD ON!

WHEN YOU FEEL YOUR HEART IS POUNDIN',
FEAR A DEVIL'S AT YOUR DOOR.
THERE'S NO PLACE TO HIDE-
YOU'RE FROZEN TO THE FLOOR!
WHAT YOU DO THEN IS YOU FORCE YOURSELF
TO WAKE UP, AND YOU SAY:
"IT'S THIS DREAM, NOT ME,
THAT'S BOUND TO GO AWAY."

HOLD ON,
HOLD ON, THE NIGHT WILL SOON BE BY.

HOLD ON,
UNTIL THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO TRY.
CHILD, HOLD ON, THERE'S ANGELS ON THEIR WAY!
HOLD ON AND HEAR THEM SAY,
"CHILD, OH CHILD!"

AND IT DOESN'T EVEN MATTER
IF THE DANGER AND THE DOOM
COME FROM UP ABOVE OR DOWN BELOW,
OR JUST COME FLYING
AT YOU FROM ACROSS THE ROOM!
WHEN YOU SEE A MAN WHO'S RAGING,
AND HE'S JEALOUS AND HE FEARS
THAT YOU'VE WALKED THROUGH WALLS
HE'S HID BEHIND FOR YEARS.
WHAT YOU DO THEN IS YOU TELL YOURSELF TO WAIT IT OUT
AND SAY IT'S THIS DAY, NOT ME,
THAT'S BOUND TO GO AWAY.

CHILD, HOLD ON.
IT'S THIS DAY, NOT YOU,
THAT'S BOUND TO GO AWAY!

n: I think this year I've kinda realized what— that I don't have to do anything but me.
And I can just do the work — I hate when people say that — but just do it without being
in my head and without worrying about — just do the problem. Solve the problem. I
can't really explain the click that happened and I don't why it happened. I was like ok I
know that this is good. I know that I'm doing what needs to happen in this monologue
and I'm in the moment and— finally having people actually say that to me, cuz like, I
think this is the big difference where you realize the click happened is because that prior
to the click you think that you're doing it and people are like you're not and you're like
well what am I doing wrong and you just have no idea and you're just swimming in the
dark but then after the click happened and you're like yup that was right. And then
people are like yup that was right. That's like how you know.

o: And then the fact that I could call a straight guy and be oh hey can we throw a party just over the fact that I came out a year ago and they were like so excited to jump on that and they like decorated it without even saying you want decorations they just went ahead and decorated it like more than any other party that they would normally decorate for. It was very resolving.

p: One thing I wish I did differently was probably putting too much faith in- instilling too much power in the faculty. I think it's very easy freshmen sophomore year when you're new to the department and you have all these goals set in your mind I think its very easy to see the powers that be and try to appease them and make sure you're doing the right thing so you are becoming the best artist you can be but I think the more you get tangled into trying to gain the validation from your teachers you lose sight of yourself. I think-personally my biggest thing especially sophomore, freshmen year – this constant need to make sure that I was showing that not only was I grateful for being here but that I was doing the right thing.

q: Ok but think of all our teachers. You know all of them tried a drug or two and they fucked up and we're – we've done some of that already and we're about to do a lot more I think even if – for the best or for the worst.

r: Freshmen year we all came in as who we were and then people told us who we should try to be and then we all try to fit and we're like No it's ok to do this. It's ok if I wanna wear girly dresses and little saddle oxfords and bows in my hair. That's ok. It's ok if Lori wants Amy Winehouse hair because she loves it. That's ok.

I AM WHAT I AM

I AM WHAT I AM

I AM MY OWN SPECIAL CREATION.
SO COME TAKE A LOOK,
GIVE ME THE HOOK OR THE OVATION.

IT'S MY WORLD THAT I WANT TO TAKE A LITTLE PRIDE IN,
MY WORLD, AND IT'S NOT A PLACE I HAVE TO HIDE IN.

LIFE'S NOT WORTH A DAMN,
'TIL YOU CAN SAY, "HEY WORLD, I AM WHAT I AM."

I AM WHAT I AM,
I DON'T WANT PRAISE, I DON'T WANT PITY.
I BANG MY OWN DRUM,
SOME THINK IT'S NOISE, I THINK IT'S PRETTY.

AND SO WHAT, IF I LOVE EACH FEATHER AND EACH SPANGLE,
WHY NOT TRY TO SEE THINGS FROM A DIFF'RENT ANGLE?

YOUR LIFE IS A SHAM 'TIL YOU CAN SHOUT OUT LOUD
I AM WHAT I AM!

I AM WHAT I AM
AND WHAT I AM NEEDS NO EXCUSES.
I DEAL MY OWN DECK
SOMETIMES THE ACE, SOMETIMES THE DEUCES.

THERE'S ONE LIFE, AND THERE'S NO RETURN AND NO DEPOSIT;
ONE LIFE, SO IT'S TIME TO OPEN UP YOUR CLOSET.

LIFE'S NOT WORTH A DAMN 'TIL YOU CAN SAY,
"HEY WORLD, I AM WHAT I AM!"

s: Nothing else makes me as happy as this. Like I'm one of those people where if something did I would do it. Like, if something else ever made me as happy as acting makes me then I'd be like well fuck this. This is as hard as fuck.

t: Even though I feel like I have taken steps back and even though I said I had regrets, I ultimately feel like I don't really regret anything because I feel like the journey I'm on – like every time you fall down or anytime you get ahead there's a reason for it and I feel like it is ultimately making you stronger. So I feel like whatever path you go on is kinda

what you're meant to be and you're gonna be- you're gonna get to the place that you're supposed to be.

u: Even though I don't hang out regularly with everyone in our class, I like love every body like my family, you know what I mean? It's like, I'm not going to see my Uncle Joe every day but I know my Uncle Joe is there and would help me if I had a rough time and I could call Uncle Joe you know? I feel like I have that with any body in our class. I'm not – I don't hang out with everybody regularly but if anyone like-if I ever really need somebody I could call these 20 people and I'd be good.

v: I never thought ever in my life ever that I would be like I wanna leave college. Ever cuz who thinks that. Everyone is always like I wanna go back to college and then I think it was probably over the summer after having one of the most awesome college years ever and living in New York and being able to audition for shit I was like I think-I feel like I'm ready. There are 9 billion people in the world that are younger than me doing more shit. And so I'm like – I do feel like I am able to leave college happily.

w: Will I be able to do what I do ever again. It's a scary thing and it's the risk that we take here. But I've also always been one to make my own opportunities if nothing comes up. That's the beautiful thing about being a writer too. It's the beautiful thing about having all these wonderful wonderful contacts I've been making here at this college. All these friends so. Um but um I think also just being able to pay off loans. Money is the biggest thing. Will I be able to make money while doing art at the same time. That is the most terrifying thing. Because student loans fucking suck.

x: Life still kinda sucks. Life is still kinda sucky but it's more in a perspective where I can handle it better. Cuz I know now what I didn't know then and I know there are

options. There are always options like nothing is every black and white. So yea I know more I guess about myself and about people around me so it's easier for me to asses what needs to be done. Of course every now and then you have those relapse moments where you're just like I just wanna go back and be a kid and not have to worry about all this shit but then you look at it and you're like no I don't.

ON MY WAY

LOOK AT HER SKIN CHINA WHITE, TISSUE THIN
LOOK AT HOW THE LIGHT CUTS CLEAR TO THE BONE
GIVES HER FEATURES A TONE
I'D TAKE IT ANY DAY
PRAISE GOT FOR EVERY ONE I MEET WHILE I
I'M ON MY WAY

MY FACE IS MEAN
EIGHTY YEARS WORTH OF TEARS
MIGHT SCRUB IT CLEAN AND STRONG
BUT JESUS DON'T WAIT SO LONG
TO MAKE MY FACE OKAY

AT LAST THE NORTH CAROLING BORDER
AND I. I AM ON MY WAY

BEFORE ANOTHER SUNRISE WAKES ME
BEFORE ANOTHER NIGHT IS GONE
I'LL FIND OUT WHERE THIS HIGHWAY TAKES ME
YOU KNOW I'VE GOT TO TRAVEL ON

LEFT MY TROUBLES ALL BEHIND ME
BACK THERE WHEN I CLIMBED ON BOARD
JORDAN RIVER'S WHERE YOU'LL FIND ME
ITS WIDE BUT NOT TOO WIDE TO FORD

AND AS I'M GOING ALONG
I CARRY WITH ME
PROMISES THAT CAN'T GO WRONG
AS I TRAVEL ON MY WAY

FIRST THING I'LL DO
GO TO SALS BARBECUE
GREASY MESSY BARBECUE
I'VE HAD WORSE

READY OR NOT
ALL THOSE BOYS MAKING NOISE
GRUBBY HANDS DIRTY TOYS

CAN'T BE SO BAD
NOT THE WORST POST I'VE HAD
NOT SO BAD

RED HAIRS A THOUGHT
REALLY FINE
NOT LIKE MINE

NO MATTER WHAT
I'LL HAVE ME SOME PIE
THEY'RE BETTER THAN SQUIRRELS
IT'S BOUND TO BE DRY
A HEAD FULL OF CURLS
LIKE JUDY HOLIDAY
WAVE GOODBYE FOLKS TO CAROLINA

HIS WIFE THINKS I'M A DRAGONFLY LORD
YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME FIND MY WAY

TOO BAD WE DON'T SEE EYE-TO-EYE LORD
WE COULD PASS THE TIME OF DAY

AND AS I'M GOING ALONG
I CARRY WITH ME
PROMISES THAT CAN'T GO WRONG

AS I TRAVEL ON
AS I TRAVEL ON

LEFT MY TROUBLES ALL BEHIND ME
BACK THERE WHEN I CLIMBED ON BOARD
JORDAN RIVER'S WHERE YOU'LL FIND ME
ITS WIDE BUT NOT TOO WIDE TO FORD

AND AS I'M GOING ALONG
I CARRY WITH ME
PROMISES THAT CAN'T GO WRONG
AS I TRAVEL ON
AS I TRAVEL ON MY WAY

FINAL DRAFT

BEFORE IT GETS INSPIRING...

KARA: Dear Your Name Here,

ANTHONY: I am pleased to inform you that the Theatre faculty has recommended you for admittance into the BFA Program.

KELSEY: We believe you have the potential to develop into a fine actor,

LIZ: singer,

MEGHAN: and dancer,

DAVID: capable of pursuing a career in theatre.

NICK: I extend my congratulations on your acceptance into the BFA Program. We look forward to your being a member of the Department of Theatre and Dance.

UNCHARTED

NO WORDS, MY TEARS WON'T MAKE ANY ROOM FOR MORE,
AND IT DON'T HURT LIKE ANYTHING I'VE EVER FELT BEFORE,
THIS IS NO BROKEN HEART, NO FAMILIAR SCARS,
THIS TERRITORY GOES UNCHARTED...

JUST ME, IN A ROOM SUNK DOWN IN A HOUSE IN A TOWN, AND I
DON'T BREATHE, NO I NEVER MEANT TO LET IT GET AWAY FROM ME
NOW, I'VE TOO MUCH TO HOLD,
EVERYBODY HAS TO GET THEIR HANDS ON GOLD,
AND I WANT UNCHARTED.

STUCK UNDER THE CEILING I MADE, I CAN'T HELP BUT FEELING...

I'M GOING DOWN,
FOLLOW IF YOU WANT, I WON'T JUST HANG AROUND,
LIKE YOU'LL SHOW ME WHERE TO GO,

I'M ALREADY OUT OF FOOLPROOF IDEAS, SO DON'T ASK ME HOW
TO GET STARTED, IT'S ALL UNCHARTED...

LA LA LA-A-A-A.
OH-H-H.

EACH DAY, COUNTIN' UP THE MINUTES, TILL I GET ALONE,
'CAUSE I CAN'T STAY
IN THE MIDDLE OF IT ALL, IT'S NOBODY'S FAULT, BUT I'M
SO LOW, NEVER KNEW HOW MUCH I DIDN'T KNOW,
OH, EVERYTHING IS UNCHARTED.
I KNOW I'M GETTING NOWHERE, WHEN I ONLY SIT AND STARE LIKE...

I'M GOING DOWN,
FOLLOW IF YOU WANT, I WON'T JUST HANG AROUND,
LIKE YOU'LL SHOW ME WHERE TO GO,
I'M ALREADY OUT OF FOOLPROOF IDEAS, SO DON'T ASK ME HOW
TO GET STARTED, IT'S ALL UNCHARTED.

JUMP START MY KALEIDOSCOPE HEART,
LOVE TO WATCH THE COLORS FADE,
THEY MAY NOT MAKE SENSE,
BUT THEY SURE AS HELL MADE ME.

I WON'T GO AS A PASSENGER, NO
WAITING FOR THE ROAD TO BE LAID
THOUGH I MAY BE GOING DOWN,
I'M TAKING FLAME OVER BURNING OUT

COMPARE WHERE YOU ARE TO WHERE YOU WANT TO BE,
AND YOU'LL GET NOWHERE

I'M GOING DOWN,
FOLLOW IF YOU WANT, I WON'T JUST HANG AROUND,
LIKE YOU'LL SHOW ME WHERE TO GO,
I'M ALREADY OUT, FOOLPROOF IDEA, SO DON'T ASK ME HOW
TO GET STARTED, IT'S ALL UNCHARTED...

NICK: I remember having a photo sent to my mom because she always had a picture of
me on the first day of school. And then that never happened again. That was the last
first day of school photo.

LIZ: You always think it's gonna be a good experience. Like my first roommate was a girl I went to high school with and we were really excited about it but then I knew there was going to be issues the moment we bought the futon which was before we even moved in. We were like ok so whose paying for this and that wasn't established. So it was like that first awkward moment and it was like goddammit what did I get myself into. It wasn't completely a bad experience. But it wasn't exactly a good experience because it's two women living in a tight space. So I was the clean one, she was the messy one and she wasn't just messy as in stuff everywhere, clothes on the floor. It was just gross in the fact that there was a pizza box that had been sitting under her bed for two months and there was mold growing under her bed and even mold sometimes on her clothes that wouldn't be washed for months. It was a problem. And it's those horror stories that you hear before but never think will happen to you but it happened to me. I am that person. I am that horror-story and there's even the awkward moments of being sexiled from your room. And it happened like two days later where I came home and her boyfriend and her were there and I could tell I was not welcome and I was like all right I got it. I am gonna go for a few hours, I'm gonna come back at six o'clock so just keep that in mind cuz I gotta do homework and they're like ok cool. I think I'm being that good roommate I'm like I'm gonna give you guys your time even though our room is not a private lovers getaway but whatever. So then I came back at like six o'clock and there were clothes literally laid out on the floor in the way that you would picture people having sex. And it was just disturbing. And I remembered I only had one rule where it was like don't have sex on the futon. They totally did it on the futon. And I don't know how you can tell maybe by the way the suede in the futon was patterned and the smell and the clothes and – just the atmosphere in the room – its almost like the air

in the room tells you and I don't have a problem with people having sex. I just have a problem with people not doing anything to cover it up. And thinking oh well I know why you didn't have sex on your bed and on the futon because you have mold growing everywhere. Which sounds exaggerated but it's really not. There was mold in places you knew there could be mold and there was mold in places I didn't know there could be mold. Luckily I was by the window where there was some nights I would stick my head out to breath.

KARA: I think that some people forget that, you know this business, the theatre business takes a little toll on you and it sorta steals a piece of your soul. And I think that I used to think of the world a lot differently. I think I used to—and I still try to do that—I think I thought the world as a nicer place. Um a lot nicer. And then I came here and I was like no people aren't so nice all of the time. And I didn't understand that cuz I grew up and you're – you know, treat people with kindness and respect. And of course not everyone is like that but also like from the cornfield I grew up in that's how everybody treated each other. And so coming here was a lot different. You know it's super competitive. At my school we were competitive but we were happy for each other. And we were proud of our work and here not all of the time are people proud or happy for you. Um cuz it's just that kinda way. Also you're just busy and you get tired and you get grouchy and conform to the society that is this department and you um change very quickly. I think I changed to how I am more now in literally just a month. That's all it took. I mean of course you develop and you change overall but the main ideas and the set in and like how it works. A month. And you just click into it. You have to or you won't make it.

KELSEY: It was really scary. First semester I was a hot mess. We were all a hot mess. It was uh— You don't really know what you're doing and you think you're good and you're like why do they like this person and not this? You're trying to like know what you're doing but you can't know what you're doing. Drew's class I had to put a blanket on a table on the first day of acting and he gave me the word betrayal and I said that's not an emotion that's an action like that's not an emotion and he said betrayal's an emotion and I said no feeling betrayed is an emotion betrayal is actually like a verb and he said stop thinking and then gave me happiness instead and I was like shit. Stop thinking. Ok. I was a hot mess.

WOE IS ME

WE HATE LOSERS

NO ONE LIKES A LOSER!

WHICH IS WHY WE DISCIPLINE.

GOD HATES LOSERS!

BUT HE LOVES YOU!

BECAUSE LOSERS DO NOT KNOW HOW TO WIN

AND WE HAVE FAITH IN YOU.

I HOPE YOU CAN LOVE ME, AMERICA

I'M GUNNING FOR FIRST PRIZE!

HERE'S WHY YOU SHOULD LOVE ME, AMERICA

MY NEEDS I CANNOT OVEREMPHASIZE

I MAKE MYSELF CRAZY

BEING WHAT MY DADS HOPE I'LL BE

BUT WHAT ABOUT ME DADS?

WHAT ABOUT ME?

(SPOKEN) JESUS CHRIST!

(SUNG) WHAT ABOUT ME?

PRACTICE YOUR BREATHING.

THOUGH I PRACTICE YOGA

I DON'T BREATHE

I TRY NOT TO DISAPPOINT

BUT STILL I

DISAPPOINT THE DADS

WHO MY FRIENDS MOCK

KIDS ARE MEAN
KIDS'LL TALK
ALL MY SO-CALLED FRIENDS ROLL THEIR EYES
THEY'RE INCREDIBLY PETTY
BECAUSE MY DADS ARE MY DADS
AND ALRIGHT ENOUGH ALREADY

WOE IS ME
WOE IS ME

WHICH IS WHY I GOTTA WIN
THIS SPELLING BEE

(OVER MUSIC)

MEGHAN: We would go into class and throw away everything we rehearsed and just sit there and say the lines and then Ms. Dwandra would be like this is brilliant! You guys must have worked so long on this and we're like... totally.

MY BIRTH MOTHER LIVES IN KANSAS, MO
IN A TRAILER
IN A PARK
TORNADOS

EVERY NOW AND THEN
SHE SENDS A CARD
LIFE AND MEN, SHE WRITES
ARE HARD
SHE WOULD LIKE TO MEET ME
WHEN I'VE GROWN AND I'VE BURST LIKE A COMET
BUT I'M SO STRESSED
BY MY STRESS
I JUST WANNA UP AND VOMIT

WOE IS ME
WOE IS ME
WHICH IS WHY I GOTTA WIN
THIS SPELLING
BE SMART
BE COOL
BE AN ADULT
BE REMARKABLY ADROIT IN SOCIAL SITUATIONS

WOE IS ME
WOE IS ME
BE SMART, BE COOL
BE SMART, BE COOL
BE SMART, BE COOL
BE SMART, BE

WHICH IS WHY I GOTTA WIN
THIS SPELLING BEE

DAVID: I remember even when I first auditioned here one of the notes I got for my monologue was to become more simple and I thought about that for a second before I started the monologue and I thought what does that mean? What?

ANTHONY: Uh this is silly but we were doing leaps across the floor in that jazz class with Christie and I got used as an example. And it was just like a proud moment like I got to leap by myself and Christie was like see how his legs – he just goes up and I was like oh I didn't even know! Like that's silly but that was a fun moment. That was a good moment.

KELSEY: Trying to not fail rather than do something productive. Being like super super busy most of the time I wasn't trying to create like this fantastic piece of art. I was literally trying to – get by. Trying to learn and like – do what I think is right banking on the fact that the teachers are going to tell me what was good and what was bad.

NICK: My first class ever was Acting 1 with Drew. And it was in that first class I decided I'm glad that I came here. My very first class. It's just some- it's just Drew.

ALL: Mmm.

MEGHAN: So you go in to talk to her not just about that problem but like other—not just issues but things that you’re just experiencing and it’s good, bad, up, down, in the middle, or extreme or not. And then over the years you just keep talking. And then you’re talking about acting class. And acting class somehow relates to something you’re going through. Just stuff and then she’s just always been there in the rough times. But she’s always there in the good ones too and that’s, I don’t know, it gets you through the shitty parts of college. But it’s not even just the shitty parts of college. It’s getting you through growing up.

I BELIEVE IN YOU

NOW THERE YOU ARE; YES, THERE'S THAT FACE,
THAT FACE THAT SOMEHOW I TRUST.
IT MAY EMBARRASS YOU TO HEAR ME SAY IT,
BUT SAY IT I MUST, SAY IT I MUST:

YOU HAVE THE COOL, CLEAR
EYES OF A SEEKER OF WISDOM AND TRUTH;

KARA: I feel like there are some people you meet in your life who know you better than you know yourself.

YET THERE'S THAT UPTURNED CHIN
AND THAT GRIN OF IMPETUOUS YOUTH.

KARA: She just knows me even when I’m putting on a face.

OH, I BELIEVE IN YOU.
I BELIEVE IN YOU.
I HEAR THE SOUND OF GOOD, SOLID JUDGMENT
WHENEVER YOU TALK;

LIZ: He’s just had my back since the beginning.

YET THERE'S THE BOLD, BRAVE SPRING OF THE TIGER

THAT QUICKENS YOUR WALK.

KELSEY: Just like every time I have a problem she's like – she knows exactly what to say to me.

OH, I BELIEVE IN YOU.
I BELIEVE IN YOU.

AND WHEN MY FAITH IN MY FELLOW MAN
ALL BUT FALLS APART,
I'VE BUT TO FEEL YOUR HAND GRASPING MINE
AND I TAKE HEART; I TAKE HEART

TO SEE THE COOL, CLEAR
EYES OF A SEEKER OF WISDOM AND TRUTH;

ANTHONY: Because she gets people. She doesn't judge...

YET, WITH THE SLAM-BANG TANG
REMINISCENT OF GIN AND VERMOUTH.

ANTHONY: Well she judges people. But not in a detrimental way.

OH, I BELIEVE IN YOU.
I BELIEVE IN YOU

(OVER MUSIC)

MEGHAN: Because it's not that I've put her on a pedestal and I'm looking up to her and I want to be like that. But it's like you're saying I want to know myself like she knows herself as a person and strive towards being that grounded and being that self-aware and being that happy and if it's not being that happy–cuz you know obviously the going gets tough sometimes–but it's knowing how to problem solve when the issues come. I want to be like that.

OH, I BELIEVE IN YOU.
I BELIEVE IN YOU. YOU! YOU!

KELSEY: You realize oh this is where I belonged my whole life ok I'm on the right path and then you're really really really happy and excited and you're drinking a lot and you're making a lot of stupid choices with several different people.

ANTHONY: They decided to take everything away from us only to give it back. Like to literally take our souls straight up. They beat everything out of us habits ideas everything. It's kinda the scare tactic thing. Like if you think you're actually gonna do it or not.

NICK: I think we were supposed to grow. Artists, people, etcetera. I think well I personally feel like I did grow a lot. I think there was still—I don't know if I was satisfied in my growth.

DAVID: The thing is coming into school ballet was my favorite thing. And he totally ruined it. And I know he's coming from a really good point where he's like I want you to be better because I know you can be better but he would just harp on me and it would like- it got to the point where I was like yes I really want to do better but I'm not going to do better at this very moment. I need to let that sink in. I know it's because they like see that I can do better and that they want me to be better and that's why they're doing it. So it's like flattering but I still want to like rip my face off.

KARA: There were a couple classes like that. They were encouraging me to stop more than they were encouraging me to keep going.

LIZ: I think it's a flaw in the humans. Um I mean everyone in this business from my standpoint if they want to succeed in it they are willing to work until they are incredibly tired. Because theatre is just so damn important to everyone in it. And if it isn't that

important why are you here you know? And because it's also such a big community I think because we're all in it together it's work that we're willing to go to our breaking point for it. I think sometimes we are willing too much so we break down but.

MEGHAN: Movement. I just felt terrible. I felt like I was accomplishing nothing. No matter how aware I was, I was receiving nothing back from the world and when I was more aware, I was more aware of other people doing stupid shit.

LIZ: That was the most successful I've ever felt here. And I don't know why, I mean I got it and that was – that was it. Literally I felt on top of the world. I was like I can't do anything wrong. Ya know. And that – that was an amazing feeling to have.

MEGHAN: If I do one more sun salutation I will stab myself in the face.

KELSEY: The idea that no matter what setback comes in your life if you just keep walking forward you're not alone. Beyond the theatrical realm I think it's all in all a good philosophy to have. No matter what comes in life you still have to wake up.

KARA: It's like a day in the life of a woman on her period. You have to go through all these specific mood swings before you get to tears.

ANTHONY: It's kinda funny because I feel like I had a better grasp of what I was doing freshmen year and then they just tore me apart and were like nope you are an idiot and you suck and so then I was like very lost. I can remember my general auditions and just being like I don't even know what I'm doing. I don't feel prepared and I've worked on what I'm doing for the whole semester.

NICK: I think there are lots of different kinds of self-doubt. There is personal self-doubt which is like when people would tell me I'm crazy. Cuz I already knew I was crazy and I

already know I'm on medication and I have issues and then they tell you you're crazy. You're like well ok can you just let me be crazy please? And then you have your teachers telling you you're not talented enough when you already know you're not talented enough because you're not on the cast list, they don't say anything in class.

KARA: Before it gets inspiring it needs to get shitty. You have to start by sucking at the things that inspire you. And so you start to feel like you're not going to go anywhere. Nothing's going to happen in your life. You can't actually go into this. And you have your certain group of friends by then. So you're able to talk to them all about how you're going to suck and no one is going to like you in your career.

EVERYBODY SAYS DON'T

EVERYBODY SAYS DON'T,
EVERYBODY SAYS DON'T,
EVERYBODY SAYS DON'T-
IT ISN'T RIGHT, DON'T-IT ISN'T NICE!

EVERYBODY SAYS DON'T,
EVERYBODY SAYS DON'T,
EVERYBODY SAYS DON'T WALK ON THE GRASS,
DON'T DISTURB THE PEACE,
DON'T SKATE ON THE ICE.
WELL, I SAY DO,
I SAY, WALK ON THE GRASS, IT WAS MEANT TO FEEL!
I SAY SAIL!
TILT AT THE WINDMILL,
AND IF YOU FAIL, YOU FAIL.

EVERYBODY SAYS DON'T,
EVERYBODY SAYS DON'T,
EVERYBODY SAYS DON'T GET OUT OF LINE.
WHEN THEY SAY THAT, THEN
LADY THAT'S A SIGN:
NINE TIMES OUT OF TEN,
LADY, YOU ARE DOING JUST FINE!

MAKE JUST A RIPPLE.
COME ON BE BRAVE.

THIS TIME A RIPPLE,
NEXT TIME A WAVE
SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO START SMALL,
CLIMBING THE TINIEST WALL,
MAYBE YOU'RE GOING TO FALL-
BUT IT IS BETTER THAN NOT STARTING AT ALL!

EVERYBODY SAYS NO,
EVERYBODY SAYS STOP.
EVERYBODY SAYS MUSTN'T ROCK THE BOAT,
MUSTN'T TOUCH A THING!

EVERYBODY SAYS DON'T,
EVERYBODY SAYS WAIT,
EVERYBODY SAYS CAN'T FIGHT CITY HALL,
CAN'T UPSET THE CART,
CAN'T LAUGH AT THE KING!

WELL, I SAY TRY!
I SAY LAUGH AT THE KINGS OR THEY'LL MAKE YOU CRY.
LOSE YOUR POISE!
FALL IF YOU HAVE TO, BUT LADY, MAKE A NOISE!
EVERYBODY SAYS DON'T,
EVERYBODY SAYS CAN'T,
EVERYBODY SAYS WAIT AROUND FOR MIRACLES,
THAT'S THE WAY THE WORLD IS MADE!
I INSIST ON
MIRACLES, IF YOU DO THEM,
MIRACLES - NOTHING TO THEM!
I SAY DON'T,
DON'T BE AFRAID!

LIZ: I think our classes kinda build your spirit a bit. I mean they crush it too but they fill it out a little where as other classes they just really kill your spirit and chip away at it. They may build your mind sure but our classes are all about making you a fuller person, personality I don't know. Just cuz its about human interaction.

NICK: It applies to a lot of people that – because we have so much acting classes where we have to talk about personal things and like throw it all out there that we're so in

touch with who we are and gauging other people that when we meet a normal person we're like you literally have no idea who you are.

LIZ: Sometimes I'm like are you a little bit retarded?

NICK: I think you're a little emotionally stunted.

LIZ: Well then I remember it's just because they're not us.

NICK: Yea.

LIZ: In classes we're encouraged to like share opinions even if they're controversial. Like Beth's classes. Especially. Tell your deepest darkest secrets about yourself. And I don't know when anywhere other people get to do that. Or like feel like its ok to do that. Even with their friends I imagine they sit and talk about only socially acceptable things.

NICK: Football.

LIZ: And we're encouraged to do crazy things that make us look stupid on the daily. River game. We look like idiots.

NICK: Yea I mean. Throw a stick at a normal person they're gonna fall over.

KELSEY: Well the self-doubt started happening for me in sophomore year I remember. And then I remember one of the teachers, I won't name names, but they called me fat and that was just like... just after class they pulled me aside and they were like you know you're really chunky and I was like ok thanks. And they're like you need to go to the gym. And that has always been something with me because... I'm the ugly one in my house. So when I heard that... Cuz there are days where if I am not wearing makeup or if I don't have my hair a certain way I am just—I don't want to step outside. I think

that I just look hideous in all these different ways. I grew up in a society where you have to wear makeup. Like I got makeup in 5th grade and so when I got that comment I was already doubting my acting ability and everything so when I got the comment that I was chubby it was like I already get that enough when I'm at home and having to hear that – really?

ANTHONY: There was one night when there was a huge blizzard. And I asked people to stay – I just didn't want to be by myself that night—that was when I was living by myself—I'm never living by myself again that's a decision—but there was a blizzard and I was all by myself and the heat went out in my apartment and I was just like here I am. No heat. There's so much snow out I can't go anywhere so I was just praying that something didn't happen to me and luckily an hour and a half later the heat came back on but I was just like I'm in my apartment all alone. I feel like I'm gonna die. That was one moment in my life that I felt so on my own.

MEGHAN: I like to pretend my life's a perfect little bubble even though I know it's not. But I like to keep it as perfect as possible because when things fall apart I don't know what to do. I just doubt myself all the time. Which – and I know that's dumb – I know it's really dumb. But that's what this years been about is like self doubt and comparing myself to other people and – what am I doing, why am I doing this, what am I doing wrong, why am I not getting called back, ya know. I'm like I'm so done crying but I don't know how to stop because I feel so lost. I can patch it all up and it's fine but still there are moments of self-doubt which there will always be but I just always hope that my beacon of light will come back eventually.

DAVID: She told me I was terrible in my show and then – none of them who at the time told me that was my best work blah blah I was so great, didn't back me up and they all started like slowly like, yea agreeing with her and they all became one voice instead of the multiple I had heard throughout – you know what I mean, and so I was just really confused and felt – not like betrayed by them but I just felt like wait a second do I need to take everything you tell me with a grain of salt now? Because I thought one of you felt this one way and now you're telling me something completely contradicting to that and so that was really upsetting and so I had a meltdown. I didn't know who else to turn to and they told me all this stuff and I just don't know what to believe and I don't know who to listen to and I'm just so confused.

LEGALLY BLONDE

TAKE BACK THE BOOKS AND PACK UP THE CLOTHES
CLEAR OUT THE ROOM AND DROP OFF THE KEY
LEAVE WITH WHAT'S LEFT OF MY DIGNITY
GET IN THE CAR AND JUST GO

CHALK IT ALL UP TO EXPERIENCE
THEY SAID I'D FAIL BUT I DISAGREED
WHO COULD SAY THEN WHERE MY PATH WOULD LEAD?
WELL, NOW I KNOW

BACK TO THE SUN
BACK TO THE SHORE
BACK TO WHAT I WAS BEFORE

BACK WHERE I'M KNOWN
BACK IN MY OWN
VERY SMALL POND

LAUGH WITH MY FRIENDS
WHEN I ARRIVE
WE'LL DROP THE TOP AND JUST DRIVE
THAT'S FINE WITH ME

JUST LET ME BE
LEGALLY BLONDE

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP AND FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE
THANK YOU FOR TREATING ME DECENTLY

WHAT'S WRONG?

MAYBE SOMEDAY YOU CAN VISIT ME

GIVE ME A CALL, SAY HELLO

WAIT, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

SORRY I'M LETTING DOWN EVERYONE

WHAT BROUGHT ON THIS?

YOU DID YOUR BEST WITH A HOPELESS CASE

THAT'S LUDICROUS

YOU ARE THE BEST THING ABOUT THIS PLACE

(OVER MUSIC)

KARA: When you get shot down you just get completely shot down. Everything's

ruined. Like your life what's your life anymore? You don't know because why am I even

here. Why do people care.

BACK TO THE SUN

BACK TO THE SHORE

BACK TO WHAT I WAS BEFORE

LIE ON THE BEACH

DREAM WITHIN REACH

DON'T STRAY BEYOND

SOME GIRLS FIGHT HARD

SOME FACE THE TRIAL

SOME GIRLS WERE JUST MEANT TO SMILE

IT'S NOT UP TO ME

JUST LET ME BE

LEGALLY BLONDE

IT'S NOT UP TO ME

JUST LET ME BE

LEGALLY BLONDE

DAVID: I think sometimes that gives you where you want to go in life cuz nearly failing at something always makes you look at it in a different way. You nearly fail and you're like whoa I thought I can do this maybe I can't. And it forces you to take a step back and look at your life and look at your choices. It's like a slap in the face. Like do you really want to do this or are you just saying you want to do this because this is what you've always done. Nearly failing always give you that extra oomph like no I'm gonna pass it.

MEGHAN: They were like so you can either get out of the pity party or you can get out of theatre. And I was like Oh-k. So I just remembered that moment kicked my butt forever more and it kinda clicked inside my head like you know I can sit there and get frustrated at whatever class or I can get frustrated about what's going on in life and have my own pity party or whatever, but if I don't get out of that then it's time to get out of theatre. So I made that decision during that winter break that I'm done you know this has happened and I have to go forward.

ANTHONY: It's like when a kid is really angry and they get sent to time out for ten minutes to think through, cry at the wall, punch it if they need to, and then emerge enlightened. That's what college is. College is time out. You get out all the shitty, you get out all your anger, all your cry, everything that people have scolded you for in high school. They said you couldn't be a slut and then you're like well you know what, I'm gonna go do that. That's not what I meant. I meant things that you're told in high school and then you get mad at them for saying that and then you go try it all out and then you're like ok they were right when they said it and now I'm right for thinking that they were right. I've been through what I needed to go through and I'm done

fighting now. And sometimes they put a cone on your head to embarrass you on top of that. You have to go through the embarrassment as well.

KELSEY: I remember talking to Wendy and saying ya know like door closes, open a window, when life gives you lemons don't make lemonade but make orange juice. Like there's an experience in everything and it's what you make of it. I'm a big believer in that. I'm the biggest believer of the experience is what you make it. So I rarely have any pity for people who are upset with their production or are upset with something that they don't like about a show and if they complain about it. I say then fix it or work on something else. Because it's a learning process. You are at school to learn. You're not here to be in a show and be the star. You are here to learn that part for that – and I know they purposefully put us in our parts and how the politics fall like we don't all like it. But I'm a big person about what you get out of something.

NICK: And since then I've been getting the Wendy smeyes for like the whole time. I mean everyone knows the Wendy smeyes. When you say something and she goes *** across the room. It's like a small wink or – it's kinda like what Dumbledore does to Harry across the Grand Hall.

DAVID: It was only one night. That scene – I just couldn't get it I couldn't get it and I felt blamed for it but it was a partnership like neither of us were good at the scene and that's fine. But that one night. We knew we had them we knew we had the audience we were in it ourselves and at least that's how I was feeling. I was like we rocked that scene and after I left I walked out the door and I just stood there and I was like ahh. And I went downstairs to the green room and he just walked in and he went YES and I was like yay so we both knew and we shared that moment of it being on. I'm like that was

such a beautiful moment of partnership. I think that– we didn’t– he didn’t– he never looks at me in the whole scene except at the very end and we– but we knew that we were on– we knew that we were on and then I don’t know I’ve never had that experience before and have – and to do it so separately and not even talk to each other and at the end you just know it was right – you just don’t get that all the time.

MEGHAN: I think this year I’ve kinda realized that I don’t have to do anything but me. And I can just do the work – I hate when people say that – but just do it without being in my head and without worrying – just do the problem. Solve the problem. I can’t really explain the click that happened and I don’t why it happened. I was like ok I know that this is good.

LIZ: And then the fact that I could call a straight guy and be oh hey can we throw a party just over the fact that I came out a year ago and they were like so excited to jump on that and they like decorated it without even saying you want decorations they just went ahead and decorated it like more than any other party that they would normally decorate for. It was very resolving.

ANTHONY: One thing I wish I did differently was probably putting too much faith in – instilling too much power in the faculty. I think it’s very easy freshmen sophomore year when you’re new to the department and you have all these goals set in your mind I think its very easy to see the powers that be and try to appease them and make sure you’re doing the right thing so you are becoming the best artist you can be but I think the more you get tangled into trying to gain the validation from your teachers you lose sight of yourself. I think – personally my biggest thing especially sophomore, freshmen

year – this constant need to make sure that I was showing that not only was I grateful for being here but that I was doing the right thing.

KELSEY: Ok but think of all our teachers. You know all of them tried a drug or two and they fucked up and we're – we've done some of that already and we're about to do a lot more I think even if – for the best or for the worst.

KARA: Freshmen year we all came in as who we were and then people told us who we should try to be and then we all try to fit and we're like No it's ok to do this. It's ok if I wanna wear girly dresses and little saddle oxfords and bows in my hair. That's ok. It's ok if Lori wants Amy Winehouse hair because she loves it. That's ok.

I AM WHAT I AM

I AM WHAT I AM
I AM MY OWN SPECIAL CREATION.
SO COME TAKE A LOOK,
GIVE ME THE HOOK OR THE OVATION.

IT'S MY WORLD THAT I WANT TO TAKE A LITTLE PRIDE IN,
MY WORLD, AND IT'S NOT A PLACE I HAVE TO HIDE IN.

LIFE'S NOT WORTH A DAMN,
'TIL YOU CAN SAY, "HEY WORLD, I AM WHAT I AM."

I AM WHAT I AM,
I DON'T WANT PRAISE, I DON'T WANT PITY.
I BANG MY OWN DRUM,
SOME THINK IT'S NOISE, I THINK IT'S PRETTY.

AND SO WHAT, IF I LOVE EACH FEATHER AND EACH SPANGLE,
WHY NOT TRY TO SEE THINGS FROM A DIFF'RENT ANGLE?

YOUR LIFE IS A SHAM 'TIL YOU CAN SHOUT OUT LOUD
I AM WHAT I AM!

I AM WHAT I AM
AND WHAT I AM NEEDS NO EXCUSES.
I DEAL MY OWN DECK
SOMETIMES THE ACE, SOMETIMES THE DEUCES.

THERE'S ONE LIFE, AND THERE'S NO RETURN AND NO DEPOSIT;
ONE LIFE, SO IT'S TIME TO OPEN UP YOUR CLOSET.

LIFE'S NOT WORTH A DAMN 'TIL YOU CAN SAY,
"HEY WORLD, I AM WHAT I AM!"

ANTHONY: Nothing else makes me as happy as this. Like I'm one of those people where if something did I would do it. Like, if something else ever made me as happy as acting makes me then I'd be like well fuck this. This is as hard as fuck.

LIZ: I guess this seems obvious but I don't really regret the decisions I made because I feel as if the aftermath has made me a better person.

NICK: Even though I feel like I have taken steps back and even though I said I had regrets, I ultimately feel like I don't really regret anything because I feel like the journey I'm on – like every time you fall down or anytime you get ahead there's a reason for it and I feel like it is ultimately making you stronger. So I feel like whatever path you go on is kinda what you're meant to be and you're gonna get to the place that you're supposed to be.

KARA: I guess a lot of what college is like you hear about all of these cliché statements and you think not everyone goes through them and then you realize that's why they're cliché. Is because everyone goes through it.

DAVID: Even though I don't hang out regularly with everyone in our class, I love every body like my family, you know what I mean? It's like, I'm not going to see my Uncle Joe every day but I know my Uncle Joe is there and would help me if I had a rough time and I could call Uncle Joe you know? I feel like I have that with any body in

our class. I don't hang out with everybody regularly but if I ever really need somebody I could call these 20 people and I'd be good.

KELSEY: I never thought ever in my life ever that I would be like I wanna leave college. Ever. Cuz who thinks that. Everyone is always like I wanna go back to college and then I think it was probably over the summer after having one of the most awesome college years ever and living in New York and being able to audition for shit I was like I think-I feel like I'm ready. There are 9 billion people in the world that are younger than me doing more shit. And so I'm like – I do feel like I am able to leave college happily.

MEGHAN: Life still kinda sucks. Life is still kinda sucky but it's more in a perspective where I can handle it better. Cuz I know now what I didn't know then and I know there are options. There are always options like nothing is ever black and white. So yea I know more I guess about myself and about people around me so it's easier for me to assess what needs to be done. Of course every now and then you have those relapse moments where you're just like I just wanna go back and be a kid and not have to worry about all this shit but then you look at it and you're like no I don't.

ON MY WAY

LOOK AT HER SKIN CHINA WHITE, TISSUE THIN
LOOK AT HOW THE LIGHT CUTS CLEAR TO THE BONE
GIVES HER FEATURES A TONE
I'D TAKE IT ANY DAY
PRAISE GOT FOR EVERY ONE I MEET WHILE I
I'M ON MY WAY

MY FACE IS MEAN
EIGHTY YEARS WORTH OF TEARS
MIGHT SCRUB IT CLEAN AND STRONG
BUT JESUS DON'T WAIT SO LONG
TO MAKE MY FACE OKAY

AT LAST THE NORTH CAROLINA BORDER AND I.
I AM ON MY WAY

BEFORE ANOTHER SUNRISE WAKES ME
BEFORE ANOTHER NIGHT IS GONE
I'LL FIND OUT WHERE THIS HIGHWAY TAKES ME
YOU KNOW I'VE GOT TO TRAVEL ON

LEFT MY TROUBLES ALL BEHIND ME
BACK THERE WHEN I CLIMBED ON BOARD
JORDAN RIVER'S WHERE YOU'LL FIND ME
ITS WIDE BUT NOT TOO WIDE TO FORD

AND AS I'M GOING ALONG
I CARRY WITH ME
PROMISES THAT CAN'T GO WRONG
AS I TRAVEL ON MY WAY

FIRST THING I'LL DO
GO TO SALS BARBECUE
GREASY MESSY BARBECUE
I'VE HAD WORSE
READY OR NOT
ALL THOSE BOYS MAKING NOISE
GRUBBY HANDS DIRTY TOYS
CAN'T BE SO BAD
NOT THE WORST POST I'VE HAD
NOT SO BAD

RED HAIRS A THOUGHT
REALLY FINE
NOT LIKE MINE

NO MATTER WHAT
BUS DRIVER
I'LL HAVE ME SOME PIE
THEY'RE BETTER THAN SQUIRRELS
IT'S BOUND TO BE DRY
A HEAD FULL OF CURLS
LIKE JUDY HOLIDAY

WAVE GOODBYE FOLKS TO CAROLINA

HIS WIFE THINKS I'M A DRAGONFLY LORD
YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME FIND MY WAY

TOO BAD WE DON'T SEE EYE-TO-EYE LORD
WE COULD PASS THE TIME OF DAY

AND AS I'M GOING ALONG
I CARRY WITH ME
PROMISES THAT CAN'T GO WRONG

AS I TRAVEL ON
AS I TRAVEL ON MY WAY
LEFT MY TROUBLES ALL BEHIND ME
BACK THERE WHEN I CLIMBED ON BOARD
JORDAN RIVER'S WHERE YOU'LL FIND ME
ITS WIDE BUT NOT TOO WIDE TO FORD

AND AS I'M GOING ALONG
I CARRY WITH ME
PROMISES THAT CAN'T GO WRONG
AS I TRAVEL ON
AS I TRAVEL ON

